

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 397

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, KS, US

SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, APRIL 11

REF: SEOUL 2910 (DTG 100912Z APR 78)

1. TROOP WITHDRAWAL. PROMINENT COVERAGE TO OP/WASH REPORT CITING AIDE TO SENATOR NUNN DISCLOSING NUNN WILL PROPOSE PLAN TO DELAY WITHDRAWAL FOR ONE YEAR. YOMIURI SHIMBUN EXCERPTS CARRIED CITING WHITE HOUSE SOURCES WHO "MADE IT CLEAR" CARTER HAS BEGUN TO RECONSIDER WITHDRAWAL PLAN. EXCERPTS NOTE,1) DOS SPOKESMEN HAVE AVOIDED DISCUSSING SECOND STAGE OF WITHDRAWAL 2) "SIGNIFICANT" THAT CARTER'S 3/16 SPEECH USED THE WORD "REDUCTION" VICE "WITHDRAWAL". SEVERAL EDITORIALS FOLLOW THEME THAT RECONSIDERATION IS UNDERWAY IN WASHINGTON -- "OUR WISHFUL THINKING IS NOT NECESSARILY GROUNDLESS AT THIS JUNCTURE" (KOREA TIMES).

2. FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. MORNING PRESS HEADLINES

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIAL SESSION. PM EDITIONS CITE

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"SOURCES" SAYING SESSION SCHEDULED FOR TWO DAYS DURING WHICH PRIME MINISTER, FORMIN AND MIN OF UNIFICATION BOARD WILL TESTIFY. PRESS REPORTS ONE FORM OF RESOLUTION OR STATEMENT WILL BE PREPARED PRESENTING ROKG POSITION ON BUGGING ALLEGATION AND TRIPARTITE TALKS.

3. KIM DONG-JO. UPI SAYS ROK EMBASSY SPOKESMAN KIM SU-DOK

CONFIRMED "NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY...BUT REFERENCE EVEN TO AN UNDERSTANDING TO BE PREMATURE". ROK EMBASSY "FLATLY DENIED" NEW YORK TIMES STORY ROKG HAD AGREED TO LET CONGRESSIONAL OFFICIALS OBTAIN TESTIMONY FROM KIM. OP/WASH QUOTES DIPLOMATIC SOURCE SAYING, "THE CONGRESS MAY DISAPPROVE THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO KOREA AND THE \$800 MILLION ARMS TRANSFER BILL, BUT WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE UNREASONABLE DEMAND." TONGA-ILBO WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS 1) AMB KIM YONG-SIK CONVEYED TO SPEAKER O'NEILL ROKG POSITION THAT IT CAN PROVIDE NO COOPERATION WHICH WOULD DAMAGE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY PRIVILEGE. 2) O'NEILL REVEALED HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT PARK (NOTE: NO FURTHER INFO).

4. YOMIURI SHIMBUN 4/11 EXCERPTS CITE "JAPANESE LAW ENFORCEMENT SOURCES" SAYING CHOSEN SOREN BEGAN 4/1 RETRIEVING BOOKLETS WHICH CONTAINED PICTURES AND/OR ARTICLES ABOUT KIM CHONG-IL. YOMIURI INTERPRETS THIS ACTION AS INDICATION KIM WILL NOT RECOVER FROM REPORTED ASSASINATION ATTEMPT. ALSO CARRIES CHOSEN SOREN DENIAL OF STORY.

5. BLUE HOUSE BUGGING ALLEGATION. ALL PAPERS COVER ON PAGE 7 THE DEMONSTRATIONS AT EMBASSY. COVERAGE LARGER THAN YESTERDAY AND SEVERAL PAPERS INCLUDE PHOTGRAPHS. FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY IN KYONG HYANG SHINMUN BY YUCHONG- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOE ASSEMBLYMAN YI CONG-SIK AND TWO PROFESSORS COMPLAINS USG EXPLANATION ON BUGGING IS NOT CONVINCING.
SNEIDER

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